

REMARKS

Applicant notes that dependent claims 3, 4, 22, 23 and 24 are **not rejected on prior art**, but only under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. As will be noted in detail below, this rejection for each of these claims has been overcome by the above amendments, whereby **claims 3, 4, 22, 23 and 24 should be allowable** if rewritten in independent form; however, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to hold in abeyance such rewriting until the Examiner has had an opportunity to reconsider (and withdraw) the rejection of the parent claim(s) of these dependent claims.

Claims 2, 8 and 9 have been deleted, and their corresponding features have been introduced into claim 1.

The feature, "the flexible body including a flexible reinforcing layer forming the bottom of the electronic device, in which is arranged the receptacle intended to accommodate the electronic unit and the electric power source", has been deleted from claim 3 and has been introduced into claim 1.

Finally, amended claim 1 now recites that the integrated circuit, quartz resonator and electric power source touch the top surface of reinforcing layer, as clearly described at specification page 10, lines 30 and 31.

The words, "if required", have been deleted in claims 3 and 5.

The word, "flexible", has been deleted in claim 14.

The words, "or an electrophoretic", have been deleted in claim 17, and a new claim 25 has been introduced to recapture this alternative.

Claim 22 depends from claims 20/19/1 so that there is no lack of antecedent basis for "the reinforcing layer" which is recited in parent claim 1.

Claim 1 now is directed to an electronic device for generating and displaying an item of information, including a flexible body which comprises" a flexible reinforcing layer forming a bottom, of the electronic device, in which is arranged the rigid receptacle accommodating the electronic unit and the electric power source, ...the integrated circuit, quartz resonator and electric power source touching a top surface of the reinforcing layer."

Thus, the claimed "reinforcing layer" has a perfectly plane and regular contact surface on which a further layer is able to be laminated without any difficulty (see specification page 10, lines 32-33). This constitutes a very important advantage with respect to the prior art in which the different watch components are arranged in the thickness of the wrist band in such a way that empty spaces appear between these components. Consequently, in the prior art the layer or film, which is subsequently laminated on the components, will be in only partial contact with the latter, thereby resulting in less stability for the mechanical connection between the layer or film and these components.

The Office Action contains eight (8) separate rejections of all the claims (**except claims 3, 4, 22, 23 and 24**), under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable (obvious) over Shingo and/or Liautaud, alone or in combination, or further in view of one or more secondary and tertiary references.

In particular, independent parent claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable (obvious) over either Shingo or Liautaud.

Applicant respectfully **traverses** this rejection, insofar as it may be applied to the amended claim 1 which has been amended to contain the limitation, "the flexible body comprising a flexible reinforcing layer forming a bottom, of the electronic device, in which is arranged a receptacle accommodating the electronic unit and the electric power source", from the (allowable) claim 3, and also limitations from the canceled claims 2, 8 and 9.

Thus, independent parent claim 1 contains a combination of limitations/features not presented in the originally filed claims, and, in particular, contains the above-noted limitation from the **allowable** claim 3. (Since Shingo and Liautaud, either alone or in combination, clearly do not teach or suggest all of the limitations of the amended independent parent claim 1 (by not art-rejecting claim 3, the Examiner admits that the claim 3 limitation inserted into claim 1 renders the subject matter of claim 1 non-obvious over the cited prior art).

Furthermore, the Examiner's comments in paragraphs 7, 12 and 17 of the Office Action do not even assert that Shingo and/or Liautaud teach or render obvious the limitations contained in the amended claim 1. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw these rejections of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Shingo or Liautaud (and Ransom for the limitation derived from cancelled claim 17).

Furthermore, since claim 1 now should be allowable, its art-rejected dependent claims 5-7 and 10-25 also now should be allowable, along with **claims 3, 4, 22, 23 and 24** which were not rejected on prior art.

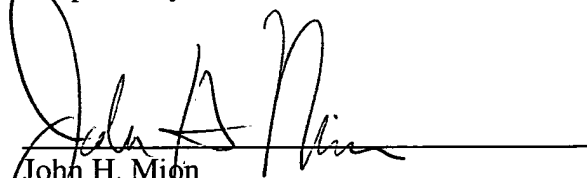
In view of the above remarks and claim amendments, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and

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the eight (8) rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and to find the application to be in condition for allowance with all of claims 1, 3-7 and 10-25; however, if for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to **call the undersigned attorney** to discuss any unresolved issues and to expedite the disposition of the application.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, and any required fee for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. The Commissioner is also authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and/or § 1.17 necessary to keep this application pending in the Patent and Trademark Office or credit any overpayment to said Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,


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